

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, February 11, 2005*

## FEBRUARY OFFICERS OF THE MONTH ARE HONORED

Last November, Senior Police Officer Stephen Mann was on his way to work at the MPDC's Training Academy when he came upon a head-on automobile crash on the George Washington Parkway in Virginia. SPO Mann rushed from his vehicle and, prior to the arrival of on-duty emergency personnel, he and other motorists provided first aid to the injured parties and moved them away from the wrecked vehicles. One individual was still trapped in a car, when a small fire began underneath it. With the aid of others, SPO Mann was able to get the passenger away from the vehicle seconds before it burst into flames. Despite the efforts of all those involved, one person died from the crash, but many others may have perished or been seriously injured if not for the efforts of SPO Mann and the others at the scene. For his heroic efforts, SPO Mann was awarded not only the Lifesaving Medal at last December's Annual Awards Ceremony, but also the department-wide Officer of the Month honors at the February CHAMPS awards luncheon. SPO Mann was one of 17 MPDC members recognized for their outstanding service to the community at the monthly ceremony.

① Read about all of their exceptional efforts at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/heroes/champs/2005/02.shtm>

① CHAMPS (Capital Hotels Award Metropolitan Police Service) is a monthly awards program hosted by the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. The February awards luncheon was hosted by the Hamilton Crowne Plaza Hotel in Northwest.

① Members of the public are invited to submit commendations for outstanding MPDC officers anytime, using the online form at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/citizencomplaints/file\\_commendation.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/citizencomplaints/file_commendation.shtm)

## MPDC WELCOMES 32 NEW OFFICERS; ALL ASSIGNED TO NEIGHBORHOOD PATROLS

In the MPDC's continuing efforts to maintain strong neighborhood patrols, the MPDC on Friday welcomed the Department's 32 newest officers. The new officers include 27 new recruit officers, plus 5 experienced officers from other law enforcement agencies who were hired under the MPDC's "lateral-entry" program. The lateral officers come from the New York City, Oak Park (Illinois), US Capitol, US Marine Corps Military and the DC Housing Authority police departments. The recruit officers spend approximately 24 weeks in training, while the experienced, lateral officers complete a condensed training program that focuses on DC Code and MPDC-specific policies and procedures. All 32 of the new officers have been assigned to uniformed neighborhood patrols in Police Service Areas (PSAs) throughout the city. The new officers were sworn in by Executive Assistant Chief Michael Fitzgerald, who encouraged the officers to always be true to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics that they recited during the ceremony. "The Code of Ethics is a powerful statement of what it means to be a police officer, and the Code has special meaning for all of us who are police officers in this city, and at this unique time in our nation's history," Fitzgerald told the graduates.

① While the MPDC has reached its goal of 3,800 sworn members, the Department continues to recruit new officers to keep up with attrition. Learn about sworn career opportunities in the MPDC at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtm>

① The MPDC is continuing to recruit for a variety of civilian positions. Details at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>

## DROP IN SPEEDING-RELATED CRASHES HELPS DRIVE SHARP REDUCTION IN TRAFFIC FATALITIES

The number of people killed in traffic crashes in DC declined by nearly 35 percent during 2004, driven in part by continued reductions in fatalities caused by speeding, an MPDC analysis of traffic fatalities reveals. There were 45 traffic fatalities during 2004, down from 69 in 2003. The 2004 total was the lowest annual figure for traffic fatalities in at least 18 years. There were 47 fatalities in both 1999 and 1986, the last year for which complete statistics were available. Last year's sharp reduction in overall fatalities included a continuing decline in fatal crashes in which excessive speed was the primary contributing factor. In fact, the number of primary speeding-related fatalities in DC has plummeted 55 percent, from 38 in 2001 to 17 in 2004. This downward trend has coincided with the MPDC's implementation of the photo radar speeding reduction program. During the same time period, the percentage of drivers speeding aggressively in photo radar enforcement zones has declined from approximately 30 percent of all motorists in July 2001 to fewer than 4 percent of motorists in recent months. Red-light running was the primary contributing factor in eight of the 45 traffic fatalities in 2004, down from 11 in 2003 but higher than the 2002 figure of four. Last year's traffic fatalities included 10 pedestrians, 4 bicyclists and 10 motorcyclists.

## DC COUNCIL COMMITTEE SCHEDULES HEARING ON AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

Councilmember Phil Mendelson, Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, has announced a public roundtable to explore the MPDC's use of red-light and photo radar speed cameras in protecting public safety. The roundtable will examine the effectiveness and limitations of the MPDC's automated traffic enforcement program. The public roundtable will be held at 10:30 am, on Wednesday, February 23, 2005 in Room 412 of the John A. Wilson Building. Those who wish to testify should contact Sanja Partalo, Legislative Analyst, at (202) 724-8779, by fax at (202) 724-6664, or via email at [spartalo@dccouncil.us](mailto:spartalo@dccouncil.us), and provide their name, address, telephone number, organizational affiliation and title (if any) by 10 am on February 21. Individuals who are unable to testify at the hearing are encouraged to submit written statements that will be made a part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted either to Ms. Partalo, or Phyllis Jones, Secretary to the Council, Room 5 of the Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004. The record will close at 5 pm on March 9, 2005. The MPDC implemented its red-light camera program in August 1999 and currently has 39 safety cameras at intersections throughout the District. The photo radar program began in the summer of 2001. Currently, there are eight mobile photo radars vehicles that are used to combat speeding in enforcement zones around the District, as well as one stationary photo radar camera in the 600 block of Florida Avenue, NE, near Gallaudet University.

## NEWS & NOTES

**"Chatting with the Chief."** Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues, and takes phones calls, from 6:40–7 pm on Tuesday, February 15, during his monthly interview on WHUR-96.3 FM radio.

**MPDC Seeks Suspects.** The MPDC is seeking the public's help in locating suspects in two recent crimes. Jose Rene Robles is wanted for a February 1 homicide on Adams Mill Road, NW (see <http://www.mpdcc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=3060>). Also, Robert Frank Taylor is wanted for a violent home invasion burglary that occurred January 25 on Decatur Street, NW (see <http://www.mpdcc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=3062>).

**Presidents' Day Schedules.** In observance of the Presidents' Day holiday, most administrative offices of the MPDC will be closed on Monday, February 21. Police patrols, emergency communications and other essential operations will be fully staffed on that date.

① View the latest overall traffic fatality statistics at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/trstats.shtm>

① Additional traffic safety information and resources are available at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm>

① For more information about the MPDC's red-light camera intersection safety program, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/redlight.shtm>

① Learn more about the photo radar speeding reduction program at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtm>

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 2/11/05
◆ 2005: 16	
◆ 2004: 27	
◆ % Change: -40.7%	
◆ Closure Rate: 56.3% (9 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	week end. 2/5/05
◆ Total: 847	
◆ Drugs: 177	
◆ Weapons: 16	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 9	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 23	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	week end. 2/5/05
◆ Arrests: 45	
◆ Curfew Violations: 16	
◆ Truants: 70	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 2/9/05
◆ February: 126	
◆ January: 1198	
◆ 2005 Total: 324	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 2/11/05
◆ 2005: 4	
◆ 2004: 5	
◆ % Change: -20.0%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**